(Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The data relating to estimated number of contract labour in PSUs/Central and State Government and Private Sector is not maintained centrally.

The appropriate Government can prohibit employment of contract labour in any job/process/operations in any activity. Barring such jobs on which employment of contract labour is prohibited by a notification, the establishment can engage contract labour. There is no authentic data within the knowledge of the Central Government to show that there has been any increase in the number of contract labour in regular and perennial nature of jobs. However, specific ninstances brought to the notice of the Government are dealtwith and appropriate action taken irtaccordance with law. The Act and the rules framed under the Act provide for protection in terms of welfare, health, wages and other service conditions of such contract labour. No survey has recently been made on the conditions of contract labour.

Scheme of Construction of Houses for Bidi Workers

4943. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be ple^d locate:

(a) whether Government have constructed a number of houses for bidi workers all over the country;

(b)if so, the figures for 1999-2000, State-wise;

(c) to what extent has the Welfare Commissioner in charge of Andhra Perdesh taken up this seriously;

(d)Weather the Welfare Commissioner has visited any districts in Andhra Pradesh in the last two years;

(e)if so, whether follow-up work has been done;

(f)to what extent has the DGLW mentioned this work or neglected it; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (g) Government have given financial assistance for the construction of a large number of houses for beedi workers in various parts of the country.

The State-wise figures for 1999-2000 are given below:—

Andhra Pradesh	3045
Karnataka	12
Maharashtra	27
Uttar Pradesh	61
West Bengal	350
Tamil Nadu	187
Kerala	500
Orissa	319
Assam	47

Top priority has been accorded to this Scheme by the Office of Welfare Commissioner, Hyderabad. In the last 2 years a large number of districts in Andhra Pradesh has been personally visited by the Welfare Commissioner which include Karimnagar, Medak, Adilabad, Ranga Reddi, Nalgonda, Krishna, Nizamabad, Chittoor, Cuddapah, West Godavari, Guntur and Kurnool.

Based on the inspections made by the Welfare Commissioner and other officers of the Ministry of Labour, the progress is reviewed, funds are released where necessary and efforts are made to ensure that the funds allocated for the purpose are utilised in time.

Impact of Restrictions on Bidi Workers

4944. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2999 given in Rajya Sabha on 20th April, 2000 and state:

(a) whether any study has been done on the impact of restrictions on bidi on their employment;

(b) if so, details of such a study;

(c) whether the Ministry is keeping a close watch on the impact of any measures which will drastically reduce employment amongst the bidi workers below the poverty line;

(d) what does the study show in this regard; and

(e) steps proposed to ensure that government are alert on this matter?